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Fire Management

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Rain Aids Firefighters

For Immediate Release
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Southern Utah firefighters are benefiting from a moist and unstable air mass that for the past two days brought rains ranging from light sprinkles to heavy downpours. With the thundershowers several new fire starts have occurred from accompanying lightning strikes.

During the passage of this moist system over Utah, temperatures have dropped and humidity levels have increased, two factors that enabled firefighters to gain on several stubborn blazes and to contain others. The moist weather is expected to remain through Wednesday, after which a trend for warmer and drier air will develop.

A summary of the more active fires in southern Utah shows the following progress. The 212-acre Ford Fire, 60 miles northeast of St. George was contained on July 2, while the 1,386-acre Baboon Fire and 6,600-acre Jacob Fire were contained on July 3, 2006. A 35-acre Wild Horse Fire, located 44 miles southwest of St. George, and was contained shortly after noon on July 4.

Resources were withdrawn from the 1,860-acre Birthday Complex after a night of heavy rain. Located 44 miles southwest of St. George, Utah, the fire will be patrolled and observed to determine the impact of recent rains. Similarly, the 100-acre Deer Creek Fire, 17 miles southwest of Bryce Canyon, will also be placed in a patrol and mop up status.

The Bull Complex, two separate fires managed together, is approximately 25 miles northwest of St. George, and is 50 percent contained. Containment is expected on Friday July 7. With a combined size of 43,571 acres it is currently the largest fire in Utah. Rains have reduced fire activity in the complex enabling firefighters to make good progress constructing and securing fire lines.

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